

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

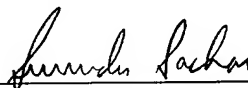
Claims 55-78 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-54 are cancelled without prejudice and Claims 55-78 are added by the present amendment.

New Claims 55-78 are similar to non-elected Claims 12, 14-18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 32, 34-38, 40, 41, 43, 44, 46, 47, 49, and 50 from parent Application Serial No. 09/865,582, and are written to correct minor informalities and to better conform to U.S. claim drafting practice. In addition, the specification is amended to include the changes made in the parent application.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be allowable and an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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